Completion of Iran-India Pipeline Project

143. SHRI LALIT SURI:
DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY:
SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question 560 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 23rd May, 2006 and state:

(a) whether a final decision regarding the laying of Iran-Pakistan-India gas pipeline has since been taken;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the present status of the negotiations being held between the three countries and by when, they are likely to be finalized?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) As of now, various issues relating to the Iran-Pakistan-India Gas Pipeline Project are being discussed between the three countries at the tripartite Secretary level Working Group Meetings. So far two such meetings have been held. The third meeting is scheduled to be held during 3-4 August, 2006 at New Delhi.

The main issues under discussion include those relating to gas pricing and project structure. It is difficult to indicate any definite time frame for finalizing the negotiations.

Petrochemical Complex at Mangalore

144. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Oil and Natural Gas Corporation propose to set up a petrochemical complex at Mangalore in Karnataka with a massive investment of Rs. 17,000/- crore, to be executed through a Special Purpose Vehicle; and

(b) if so, the details in regard thereto, indicating the name of the members of the SPV, with the percentage of investment proposed to be made by each member?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) has obtained the approval of its Board of Directors for formation of a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), namely.Mangalore Petrochemicals Ltd. (MPL) for implementation of an Aromatics complex in Mangalore SEZ at an estimated cost of Rs. 4852 crore. In addition, they also plan for an Olefin Project in the Mangalore SEZ. The feed stock would be aromatic rich naphtha stream from the exisiting Mangalore Refinery & Petrochemicals Ltd. and its proposed extension unit.

The envisaged equity structure of the SPV is as under:—

i)	ONGC	46%
ii)	MRPL.	3%
iii)	Financial Institutions/Banks-	51%

Investment by each member will depend on the finalized project structure.

Oil Pool Account

145. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount so far collected and accrued in oil pool account by way of taxes/cess on petrol, diesel and LPG; and

(b) the rate of increase in international prices of crude oil and refinery charges, taxes/cess on petrol, diesel and LPG, each separately for the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) The Oil Pool Account ceased to exist effective 1.4.2002 after dismantling of Adiminstered pricing Mechanism (APM) with effect from 1.4.2002. However, the petroleum sector has contributed approximately Rs. 70, 051 crore to the central exchequer and Rs. 43,223 crore to the State exchequer by way of taxes/cess during the year 2004-05.

(b) The trend in the international crude and product prices is given in Statement-I (See below). The major changes in excise/customs duty/cess on crude oil and petroleum products are given in Statement II.